

Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Kevin Mabry. I live in Fort Collins, and I am a constituent of Senator John Kefalas.

I am here to testify in support of SCR13-002. The key here is letting the voters decide to take us to the next step of universal health care for everyone in the state of Colorado.

As a retired podiatrist and a person of faith, I am concerned about people's souls, and I don't mean the soles of their feet. As citizens of this great state, we need to go deeper than our political ideology and seek the common good.

My first point: We are still operating under the faulty logic that mandating everyone to have private health insurance equates to providing health care. Even at its best, the ACA will still leave enough people in this state uninsured to equal the population of Colorado Springs, whereas the Colorado Health Care Cooperative will achieve universal health care for every citizen in the state.

My second point: An article by Steven Brill titled "The Bitter Pill," in a special edition of TIME magazine published on March 4, 2013, points to how hospital corporations are billing exorbitant prices to support administrative salaries and corporate greed. You will be heavily lobbied to vote against this bill by members of the medical industrial complex, such as hospitals, private health insurance companies, and pharmaceutical companies, who prioritize healthy "bottom lines," over healthy people. It is time to stop treating health care as a commodity, like cars and shoes, and treat it as infrastructure, to be provided for the common good.

Finally, we have tried and failed to achieve quality, cost-effective, universal health care in the United States for over a century, because we continue to rely on a flawed, for-profit system. The Affordable Care Act has put a bandaid on a system that is in need of a transplant. Fortunately, the ACA allows states to use innovative plans that achieve equal or greater coverage. The Colorado Health Care Cooperative plan is a brilliant idea which will benefit individuals, businesses, and the health and economy of this state overall. This plan deserves a chance to go before the voters. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you very much for your time.